

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 520 without my signature.

It is important to instill in our youth the value and importance of service and volunteerism. Service and volunteerism provide all Californians an opportunity to participate in building and strengthening our state and local communities. I believe in the power of volunteerism so much that I created the first-in-the-nation state cabinet level Secretary of Service and Volunteering.

However, this bill is too prescriptive and may result in less schools opting to provide the volunteer opportunities for credit. Ultimately, current law already provides the authority for school districts to allow volunteer service credits for their students in a manner that they deem most appropriate for their local communities.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger